



General Assembly

***Substitute Bill No. 847***

*January Session, 2013*



***AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMISSION FOR TECHNOLOGY  
ADVANCEMENT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 4d-80 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

3 (a) There is established a Commission for [Educational] Technology  
4 Advancement within the Department of Administrative Services. The  
5 commission shall consist of the following members or their designees:  
6 (1) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the  
7 Commissioner of Administrative Services, [or the commissioner's  
8 designee,] the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of  
9 Economic and Community Development, the president of The  
10 University of Connecticut and the president of the Board of Regents  
11 for Higher Education, [or their designees,] the State Librarian [, or the  
12 State Librarian's designee, the chairperson of the Public Utilities  
13 Regulatory Authority, or the chairperson's designee, the chief  
14 executive officers of the constituent units of the state system of higher  
15 education, or their designees] and the Consumer Counsel, (2) one  
16 member each representing the Connecticut Conference of Independent  
17 Colleges, the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, the  
18 [Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, the  
19 Connecticut Educators Computer Association,] Connecticut

20 Conference of Municipalities, the Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
21 and the Connecticut Library Association, and (3) [a secondary school  
22 teacher designated by the Connecticut Education Association and an  
23 elementary school teacher designated by the Connecticut Federation of  
24 Educational and Professional Employees, and (4)] four members who  
25 represent business [and] or have expertise in information technology,  
26 [one each] two of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, [the  
27 Lieutenant Governor,] one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker  
28 of the House of Representatives and one of whom shall be appointed  
29 by the president pro tempore of the Senate. [The Lieutenant Governor  
30 shall convene the first meeting of the commission on or before  
31 September 1, 2000.] The commission shall convene a meeting at least  
32 once during each calendar quarter.

33 (b) The [commission shall elect] Governor shall appoint a  
34 chairperson from among [its] the members of the commission or their  
35 designees. Subject to the provisions of chapter 67, and within available  
36 appropriations, the commission may appoint an executive director and  
37 such other employees as may be necessary for the discharge of the  
38 duties of the commission. Notwithstanding any provision of the  
39 general statutes, the executive director shall have the option to elect  
40 participation in the state employees retirement system, or the alternate  
41 retirement program established for eligible employees in higher  
42 education or the teachers' retirement system.

43 (c) The commission shall:

44 [(1) Be the principal educational technology policy advisor for state  
45 government;]

46 [(2)] (1) Develop, oversee and direct the attainment of state-wide  
47 technology advancement goals including:

48 (A) Increasing the availability and usage of technology that  
49 promotes efficiency in operation and increased digital literacy across  
50 the state;

51     (B) Increasing and improving usage of high-speed, cost effective  
52     network technology to meet collaboration demands of state and local  
53     government, institutions of education and other related entities;

54     [(A)] (C) Connecting [all] institutions of higher education, libraries,  
55     public elementary and secondary schools, regional educational service  
56     centers, municipal facilities and other parties through a state-wide  
57     high speed, flexible network that will allow for video, voice and data  
58     transmission at rates set no higher than necessary to cover the costs of  
59     maintaining and operating the network;

60     [(B)] (D) Wiring [all] school classrooms and connecting them to the  
61     Internet and to the state-wide high speed network through wired,  
62     wireless, or any other digital transmission technology providing high  
63     speed connectivity;

64     [(C)] (E) Providing access for [all] public schools, public libraries  
65     and libraries at institutions of higher education to a core set of on-line  
66     full text resources and to the ability to purchase collaboratively for  
67     other collections in order to maximize buying power;

68     [(D)] Ensuring, in cooperation with the State Board of Education,  
69     competency in computing skills by the sixth grade for all students;]

70     [(E)] (F) Ensuring competency in specific computing skills and the  
71     integration of technology into the curriculum for all public school  
72     teachers; and

73     [(F)] (G) Ensuring that institutions of higher education offer a wide  
74     range of course and degree programs via the Internet and through  
75     other synchronous and asynchronous methods;

76     [(3) Coordinate the activities of all state agencies, educational  
77     institutions and other parties involved in the creation and  
78     management of a reliable and secure network that will offer  
79     connectivity and allow for the transmission of video, voice and data  
80     transmission to every library, school, regional educational service

81 center and institution of higher education;]

82 [(4)] (2) Be the liaison between the Governor and the General  
83 Assembly and local, state and federal organizations and entities with  
84 respect to [educational] technology adoption and access matters;

85 [(5)] (3) Develop and maintain a long-range plan and make related  
86 recommendations for the coordination of [educational] technology  
87 advancement. The plan shall (A) establish clear goals and a strategy for  
88 [using telecommunications and information] technology to improve  
89 education, research and access, (B) [include a professional  
90 development strategy to ensure that teachers and faculty know how to  
91 use the new technologies to improve education] improve digital  
92 literacy and awareness, (C) include an assessment of the  
93 telecommunications, hardware, software and other services that will  
94 be needed to improve education, and (D) include an evaluation  
95 process that monitors progress towards the specified goals;

96 [(6) Measure the availability and usage of Internet access sites  
97 available to the public, including, but not limited to, those maintained  
98 by state and local government agencies, libraries, schools, institutions  
99 of higher education, nonprofit organizations, businesses and other  
100 organizations and recommend strategies for reducing the disparities in  
101 Internet accessibility and usage across the state and among all  
102 potential users;

103 (7) Establish methods and procedures to ensure the maximum  
104 involvement of members of the public, educators, librarians,  
105 representatives of higher education, the legislature and local officials  
106 in educational technology matters and organize, as necessary, advisory  
107 boards consisting of individuals with expertise in a particular  
108 discipline significant to the work of the commission;]

109 [(8)] (4) On or before January 1, [2001] 2015, and [annually] every  
110 two years thereafter, [the commission shall] report, in accordance with  
111 section 11-4a, on its activities, progress made in the attainment of the

112 state-wide technology advancement goals as outlined in the long-  
113 range plan and any recommendations to the joint standing [committee]  
114 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
115 relating to education, commerce, higher education and appropriations  
116 and the budgets of state agencies; [ , the State Board of Education, and  
117 the Board of Regents for Higher Education. The report shall include  
118 recommendations for adjustments to the funding formula for grants  
119 pursuant to section 10-262n if there are school districts that are at a  
120 disadvantage in terms of wiring their schools and the use of  
121 technology in their schools;]

122 [(9)] (5) Enter into such contractual agreements, in accordance with  
123 established procedures, as may be necessary to carry out the  
124 provisions of this section; and

125 [(10)] (6) Take any other action necessary to carry out the provisions  
126 of this section, including, but not limited to, establishing a process for  
127 rate-setting and selection of parties to be connected pursuant to  
128 subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

129 (d) The Commission for [Educational] Technology Advancement  
130 may request any office, department, board, commission or other  
131 agency of the state to supply such reports, information and assistance  
132 as may be necessary or appropriate in order to carry out its duties and  
133 requirements.

134 [(e) For purposes of this section, educational technology shall  
135 include, but not be limited to: (1) Computer-assisted instruction; (2)  
136 information retrieval and data transfer; (3) telecommunications related  
137 to voice, data and video transmission of instruction related materials  
138 and courses; (4) the development and acquisition of educational  
139 software; and (5) the instructional uses of the Internet and other  
140 technologies.]

141 Sec. 2. Section 4d-81 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
142 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

143       There is established [an educational] a technology advancement  
144       account. The Commission for [Educational] Technology Advancement  
145       shall deposit in said account any private donation, bequest or devise  
146       made to it to assist in the attainment of the state-wide technology  
147       advancement goals established pursuant to subdivision [(2)] (1) of  
148       subsection (c) of section 4d-80, as amended by this act. Said account is  
149       intended to be in addition to those resources that are appropriated by  
150       the state for technology purposes. The commission shall use the  
151       resources of the account for activities related to the attainment of such  
152       goals.

153       Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 4d-82 of the general statutes is  
154       repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
155       *1, 2013*):

156       (a) The Commission for [Educational] Technology Advancement  
157       shall develop, with the advice and assistance of the State Board of  
158       Education, the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the  
159       Department of Administrative Services, a five-year plan for the  
160       implementation of the Connecticut Education Network to provide  
161       state-of-the-art, high-speed, reliable Internet access and video, voice  
162       and data transmissions that electronically link all educational  
163       institutions in the state, including public and independent institutions  
164       of higher education, the state's libraries and all elementary, middle and  
165       secondary schools and other institutions including businesses, job  
166       centers and community organizations. The plan shall include the  
167       establishment of a Connecticut Digital Library as a component of the  
168       Connecticut Education Network to ensure on-line access by all  
169       students and citizens to essential library and information resources.  
170       The State Library, in conjunction with the Board of Regents for Higher  
171       Education, shall administer the Connecticut Digital Library. The  
172       Connecticut Digital Library shall provide access to available on-line  
173       electronic full-text databases, a state-wide electronic catalog and  
174       interlibrary loan system and the electronic and physical delivery of  
175       library resources. The Connecticut Digital Library shall include

176 elements specifically designed to meet the educational and research  
177 needs of the general public, higher education students and faculty and  
178 elementary and secondary school students and teachers.

179 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-4h of the general statutes is  
180 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
181 *1, 2013*):

182 (a) The Department of Education, in consultation with the  
183 Commission for [Educational] Technology Advancement, shall  
184 establish a competitive grant program, within the limit of the bond  
185 authorization for purposes of this section, to assist (1) local and  
186 regional school districts, (2) regional educational service centers, (3)  
187 cooperative arrangements among one or more boards of education,  
188 and (4) endowed academies approved pursuant to section 10-34 that  
189 are eligible for school building project grants pursuant to chapter 173,  
190 to upgrade or install wiring, including electrical wiring, cable or other  
191 distribution systems and infrastructure improvements to support  
192 telecommunications and other information transmission equipment to  
193 be used for educational purposes, provided the department may  
194 expend up to two per cent of such bond authorization for such  
195 purposes for the technical high school system.

196 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 10-262n of the general statutes is  
197 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
198 *1, 2013*):

199 (b) Local and regional boards of education shall apply to the  
200 department for grants at such time and in such manner as the  
201 Commissioner of Education prescribes. In order to be eligible for a  
202 grant, a local or regional board of education shall: (1) Have a  
203 technology plan that was developed or updated during the three-year  
204 period preceding the date of application for grant funds and, once the  
205 Commission for [Educational] Technology Advancement develops the  
206 long-range plan required pursuant to subdivision [(5)] (3) of subsection  
207 (c) of section 4d-80, as amended by this act, the local technology plan

208 shall be consistent with such long-range plan, (2) provide that each  
209 school and superintendent's office be able to communicate with the  
210 Department of Education using the Internet, (3) present evidence that  
211 it has applied or will apply for a grant from the federal Universal  
212 Service Fund, and (4) submit a plan for the expenditure of grant funds  
213 in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

214 Sec. 6. Section 10-262o of the general statutes is repealed and the  
215 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

216 The Department of Education shall establish, within available  
217 appropriations, a competitive grant program to fund innovative  
218 teacher training programs on the integration of technology into the  
219 public school curriculum in order to improve student learning. [On  
220 and after July 1, 2001, such training programs shall be consistent with  
221 the standards developed pursuant to section 4d-85.]

222 Sec. 7. Section 10a-143b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
223 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

224 The Board for State Academic Awards shall establish, within  
225 available appropriations, innovative on-line teacher and higher  
226 education faculty training programs on the integration of technology  
227 into the public school curriculum and courses at public institutions of  
228 higher education in order to improve student learning. [On and after  
229 July 1, 2001, the training program established for public school  
230 teachers shall be consistent with the standards developed pursuant to  
231 section 4d-85.]

232 Sec. 8. Section 11-2b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
233 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

234 The State Library, in consultation with the Commission for  
235 [Educational] Technology Advancement, within available  
236 appropriations, shall contract, through a request for proposal process,  
237 for the development of a Connecticut Parent Technology Academy.  
238 The academy shall be host network for the development of increased



239 opportunities for parents of elementary, middle and secondary school  
240 students to learn about and demonstrate their knowledge of  
241 information technologies. The academy shall: (1) Identify existing  
242 programs and best practices for the delivery of information technology  
243 training for parents, (2) coordinate the development of curriculum  
244 models to be used to train parents in the use of information  
245 technologies, and (3) seek business, philanthropic, community and  
246 educational partners to expand training locations and learning options  
247 for parents. The Commission for [Educational] Technology  
248 Advancement shall work in collaboration with the academy to  
249 negotiate vendor discounts for computer purchases and upgrades and  
250 low interest bank loans for such purchases for parents who  
251 successfully complete an information technology training program.

252 Sec. 9. Subdivision (5) of subsection (d) of section 16-331 of the  
253 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
254 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

255 (5) The authority shall adopt regulations, in accordance with  
256 chapter 54, establishing procedures and standards for the renewal of  
257 certificates issued to community antenna television companies. Such  
258 regulations shall, without limitation, (A) incorporate the provisions of  
259 the Communications Act of 1934, 47 USC 546, (B) require the authority  
260 to consult with the advisory council for the franchise area served by  
261 the certificate holder before making a decision concerning the renewal  
262 of the certificate, (C) require any holder of a certificate which is not  
263 renewed by the authority to continue to operate the franchise for one  
264 year after the end of its term or until a successor is chosen and ready to  
265 assume control of the franchise, whichever is sooner, (D) establish  
266 standards for the content of notices sent to cable subscribers  
267 concerning public hearings for franchise renewal proceedings which  
268 standards shall include, without limitation, the requirements specified  
269 in subdivision (6) of this subsection, (E) establish standards to ensure  
270 that the costs and expenses of a municipality constructing, purchasing  
271 or operating a community antenna television company are accurately

272 attributed to such company, and (F) establish quality standards for the  
273 instructional and educational channels. The authority shall adopt  
274 regulations pursuant to this subdivision in conjunction with the  
275 Commission for [Educational] Technology Advancement.

276 Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 16-333h of the general statutes is  
277 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
278 *1, 2013*):

279 (a) Each community antenna television company, as defined in  
280 section 16-1, shall, not later than the date it extends energized trunk  
281 and feeder to all areas within its franchise territory in which there are  
282 at least twenty-five prospective subscribers per aerial plant mile of  
283 extension and fifty prospective subscribers per underground plant  
284 mile of extension, extend such trunk and feeder to public and private  
285 elementary and secondary schools in such franchise areas and offer  
286 one instructional television channel as part of its basic service. Each  
287 such company may utilize such instructional television channel for  
288 noninstructional television programming during any time when the  
289 channel is not needed for instructional programming. No such  
290 company shall be required to offer the instructional television channel  
291 on or after July 1, 1995, unless the Commission for [Educational]  
292 Technology Advancement certifies to the Public Utilities Regulatory  
293 Authority that educational agencies in the company's franchise area  
294 have utilized the instructional television channel to provide, during  
295 the school year, an average of not less than twenty hours per week of  
296 credit and noncredit instructional programming, programming  
297 supporting school curricula and programming for professional  
298 development.

299 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 4d-1a of the general statutes is  
300 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
301 *1, 2013*):

302 (a) (1) Wherever the term "Chief Information Officer of the  
303 Department of Information Technology" is used in the following

304 general statutes, the term "Commissioner of Administrative Services"  
 305 shall be substituted in lieu thereof; (2) wherever the term "Chief  
 306 Information Officer" is used in the following general statutes, the term  
 307 "commissioner" shall be substituted in lieu thereof; and (3) wherever  
 308 the term "Department of Information Technology" is used in the  
 309 following general statutes, the term "Department of Administrative  
 310 Services" shall be substituted in lieu thereof: 1-205, 1-211, 1-212, 1-283,  
 311 3-117, 4d-3, 4d-5, 4d-10, 4d-11, 4d-14, 4d-38, 4d-41, 4d-42, 4d-43, 4d-  
 312 81a, 4d-82a, 4d-83, [4d-84,] 10-5b, 10-10a, 18-81x, 19a-110, 19a-750, 32-  
 313 6i, 54-105a, 54-142q, 54-142r and 54-142s.

314 Sec. 12. Sections 4d-84 and 4d-85 of the general statutes are  
 315 repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2013*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	4d-80
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	4d-81
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	4d-82(a)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-4h(a)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-262n(b)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-262o
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10a-143b
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	11-2b
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	16-331(d)(5)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	16-333h(a)
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	4d-1a(a)
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	Repealer section

**PD**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*